

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

{No. 45 of 1878.

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th November 1878.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhárat Shramajíví"	Baráhanagar	4,000	
2	"Rájsháhye Sambád"	Rájsháhye	.....	
3	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhá"	Bhawánipore	.....	
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta	.....	
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cálná Prakásh"	Cálná	.....	
7	"Hindu Lalaná"	Nawábgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....	
8	"Sahayogí"	Bhawánipore, Calcutta	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishi"	Bhawánipore, Calcutta	.....	
10	"Bhárat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	31st October 1878.
11	"Bhárat Sanskárak"	Harinábhi	.....	
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto	.....	
13	"Bishwa Dút"	Táliganj, Calcutta	.....	
14	"Bardwán Pracháriká"	Bardwán	165	
15	"Bardwán Sanjívaní"	Ditto	.....	6th November 1878.
16	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca	400	3rd ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hoochly	1,168	1st ditto.
18	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly	200	1st ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishi"	Dacca	300	2nd ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rájsháhye	200	
21	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	
22	"Pratikár"	Ditto	235	1st ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákiniá, Rangpore	250	
24	"Sádháraní"	Chinsurah	516	3rd ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta	.....	4th ditto.
26	"Sambád Bháskar"	Ditto	.....	
27	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Ditto	5,500	2nd ditto.
28	"Soma Prakásh"	Bhawánipore	700	4th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Calcutta	550	1st to 5th November 1878.
31	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	.....	2nd to 8th ditto.
32	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Ditto	625	1st to 5th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto	.....	
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakarí"	Bethar, Howrah	300	
36	"Murshidábád Patriká"	Berhampore	.....	
37	"Barisál Vártábáha"	Barisál	300	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	2nd November 1878.
<b>URDU.</b>				
39	"Akhbár-ul-Akhiár"	Mazufferpore	.....	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	6th ditto.
41	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta	.....	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
42	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Ditto	250	1st ditto.

## POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
October 31st, 1878.

## The Cabul War.

1. A *Cabul War*, remarks the *Bhárat Mihir*, seems now to be unavoidable, and God only knows what is written in the fate of India. Our expectations that *Shere Ali* would become afraid and bow his head at the loud roar of the British Lion, have not been realized. The English papers belaud Lord Lytton's policy, whilst Lord Beaconsfield has ordered warlike preparations to be made throwing the entire responsibility on the shoulders of India. It is not easy thing to understand why the Prime Minister, who could pocket so much insult during the Russo-Turkish war and yet stand aloof from the affray, should give the order to declare war against the *Amír* for a slight cause. In our opinion, England believes it must meet Russia in bloody contest now or hereafter, but wishes to limit the conflagration to *Asia* and prevent its extending to Europe. It would suit England's purpose much better if, at the expense of the blood of the native troops and India's money, she could here defeat so powerful an enemy as Russia. On the other hand, if unable to conquer, the damage to England by defeat in India would not be so great as by defeat in Europe. The aim of the Premier seems to be to begin the work *now*, when Russia will after her great losses in the late war either be unable to join in the affray, or, if she does, will give but little aid. In the former case, the *Amír* will be defeated and compelled to submit to any terms that may be imposed on him, such as the placing of a Resident in *Cábul*, and thus we shall save India. Otherwise it is not right policy thus to treat an independent sovereign. Again, it was not proper to have asked him to the *Delhi Darbár*, as all the other feudatory Princes were. The occupation of *Quettah* was another error on the part of Government. These two circumstances, proceeding from whatever motives, combined to make the *Afgháns* consider themselves insulted. The dislike shown by the *Amír* towards the English in refusing to admit their Ambassador, whilst welcoming the Russian Envoy, serves, in our opinion, to show that it is the English who are at fault. It would have been better not to have insisted on the location of a Resident in *Cábul*. We believe it to be the desire of the English not so much to secure the friendship of the *Amír* as to keep him altogether under their power and deprive him of his authority and strength; he too has foolishly brought this calamity on himself. Be all this as it may, we shall be the sufferers eventually in the case of war. It makes us tremble to think how such a poor and heavily taxed nation as we are, shall be able to sustain the weight of so great a war.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
November 2nd, 1878.

## Cabul Affairs.

2. THE *Sulabha Samáchára* does not think it politic for the English, from either a secular or religious point of view, to go to war with *Afghánistán*. How does it effect us even if it be true, as stated, that Russia and the uncivilized *Amír* have become friends? The only fear would be that Russia might place a puppet of its own on the throne of Cabul; but that seems impossible. *Afghánistán* could not hold its own in a war with England. Lord Lawrence has written wisely and well on the matter. If the *Amír* is driven into becoming an everlasting foe of the English and allies himself to Russia, the two will foment disturbances on the Indian frontier, which will add to the disasters of famine. Where is the harm of bearing up with a slight insult, especially from those who are not subjects of our Government? It would not take away from Britain's honor and dignity; on the contrary by forgiving the affront, virtue and wealth would both be preserved. Is it good to sacrifice thousands of lives merely with a view to maintain a little sovereignty and power? We do not

wish Government to exhibit its anger towards a barbarous nation, and by so doing injure both itself and its subjects.

3. There is no doubt that the British Lion, writes the *Dacca Prakasha*,

The Cabul war. Mr. Forsyth and Lord Lawrence's views thereon. is making extensive preparations, and will put forth all his strength for the impending war with Cabul, which has been determined on. But the *Cábul* of now-a-days, as the English know, is much stronger than that of former times, having been rendered so by the 9,000 excellent rifles which used to be presented as a gift by our Government, and also by Russian aid. Apart from this, the Afgháns will fight to the last for their independence. The English are no fools to remain unprepared, knowing all this. We are not of those who would in any way hold in contempt the power of the British Lion. We do not approve the justice or equity of the present contest, or that of forcing a mission on *Shere Ali*, an independent sovereign. The plea as to the protection and safety of the frontier, and the alliance of the *Amír* with Russia, will not answer, because the English have fortified the passes well enough, and need not fear invasions like those of former times. If the English take *Cábul*, they must annex the country permanently, which will involve great expense. It has been well shown by Mr. Forsyth and Lord Lawrence that if there is a war with *Afghánistán*, it will be for imperial interests, and therefore India ought not to be saddled with the costs. When England, through fear of war-costs, refrained from assisting her great friend Turkey in the Russo-Turkish war, it does not appear just on her part to enter into a contest here for the sake of increasing her honor at the expense of India.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
November 3rd, 1878.

4. The *Sádhárani* says that, Lord Beaconsfield, who is now the presiding deity of England, is the person who has urged on the war with *Cábul*, and caused

Cabul affairs. extensive preparations to be made for the invasion of *Afghánistán*, and advice from idiotic and dependent Bengalis will be of no avail; but the question is, who is to pay the cost? The charges of the Chinese and Abyssinian wars, which were of no benefit to India, were thrown on us, notwithstanding every remonstrance by the Press and people. We further hear that the cost of the army dépôts in England will also have to be borne by India. In such matters the English take a very one-sided view of things. Messrs. Bright, Forsyth, and Gladstone have openly said so. The present war is not at all for the interests of India; it is an outcome of the Berlin Conference. *Shere Ali's* aversion to the English Government is of long standing. Lord Beaconsfield, who has been fanning the flames of the present troubles, should properly defray all expenses; for this war has after all to do with European politics. Asia, however, the writer thinks, is doomed to be portioned out between England and Russia, who have been approaching each other for the last century. Russia will not easily give up the alliance with *Cábul*, which she has at last succeeded in establishing; her object being to acquire India. The end of it will be that England and Russia will partition *Afghánistán* between themselves. The independence of *Afghánistán* is doomed. That very quality or policy of the English which the *Amír* detests will serve to effect his ruin at last. *Cábul* has not done well in placing itself between two such stools. The fall of *Cábul* can only be delayed. Partition will be its fate.

SADHARANI,  
November 3rd, 1878.

5. The *Som Prakasha* quite dissents from the opinions of the English papers, which approve of the resolution of The ultimatum to the Amir of Cabul. the Cabinet directing the Viceroy to send an ultimatum to the *Amír* fixing a time for his reply. There is no likelihood that the *Amír* will give a reply other than that he has already given. This

SOM PRAKASHA,  
November 4th, 1878.

will only serve to open the wound afresh and increase the ire of the Government. As to the recent reply being unsatisfactory, allowance must be made for the uncivilized state of the country, though it seems the *Amir* intended no disrespect, but has used a style current among the barbarous race over whom he holds sway. Had he wished to act the hypocrite, smooth and flowery language might have been resorted to ; his refusal to receive the British Envoy is not an act for which he will express regret or ask forgiveness, and we do not believe that another mission will be more successful than the first. In our opinion it would be better if no further embassy were sent. Of what use will a rocky and unproductive country like *Afghánistán* be to our Government ? The Government should be content with securing its present frontier by conciliation of the frontier tribes, such as the *Afridis*, *Khyberies*, and the *Khán of Khelát*.

SANGBÁD  
PRABHÁKARA,  
November 5th, 1878.

6. As there will be war with the headstrong and silly *Amir* of Bengal, and as all other races of natives will be contributing to the aid of the English, Assistance which the Bengalis could give in the Cabul War. in men, money, and arms, the *Sangbád Prabhákara* admitting the Bengalis to be a timid, cowardly, and feeble race, and that they could not help in the rough work that must accompany a war with *Afghánistán*, suggests the following which even they might do to assist the Government; seeing that this war if once commenced, will not end soon. Let the educated and respectable men of each town and village in Bengal call a meeting and raise subscriptions, to be forwarded to a central committee at Calcutta, for the benefit of the sick and wounded, and of widows and orphans. Although we are well aware that the British are the richest nation in the world, and have made ample provision for these contingencies, Government will not be displeased to see our voluntary efforts in such a cause, whilst our open loyalty will receive its reward in enhanced respect for our race. We would therefore entreat our native contemporaries and political associations to agitate this matter.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
November 1st, 1878.

7. After giving a brief *résumé* of the existing law on religious endowments and the action contemplated by the Madras and Bengal Governments, the *Education Gazette* rebukes natives for not looking after their religious trusts, and remarks that the *Mahantas* have become very covetous. Take for instance the immense sums of money which have been, and are still being, squandered by the *Mahanta* of *Tárakéshwara* on his own private interests. Was it the intention of the donors of the *Tárakéshwara* trusts to have the funds given by them wasted to the extent of *lakhs* of rupees in the private suits of the *Mahantas* ?

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

The Railway Conference.

8. The *Education Gazette* would urge the Railway Conference to take into consideration the case of native passengers, who are generally huddled together and pushed into carriages in numbers greatly exceeding those that the carriages were intended to accommodate. As the income of the railways is not small, extra carriages for the convenience of the lowest class of passengers should be put on, and railway officials should be directed to attend to their comfort. The present waiting-rooms at the several stations are used by *sáhibs* and *subás*; separate accommodation should be provided for natives, especially for native women, who are exposed to heat and wind and rain at stations where there are no native confectioners' shops. The Railway Company did take to employing natives as guards, &c., on the East Indian line, but the firm opposition of Europeans put a stop to the practice becoming general. The

Railway Conference should attend to this matter and propose the appointment of natives as guards.

9. The *Pratikára*, in a leading article, takes up the question of the Private practice to be denied in recent order of the Medical Board, directing future to Assistant Surgeons. that Assistant Surgeons should forego private practice and attend solely to their legitimate duties in the hospitals. A writer in the *Statesman* upholds the Board's orders, on several grounds, whereupon the Editor of this paper remarks that it is not aware that there are mean persons among Assistant Surgeons and native doctors, who would, as represented by the correspondent, condescend to use Government medicines for private persons : there cannot be many such in the service. The newly fledged doctors who, immediately on leaving college, betake themselves to the *mafussal*, can find but little practice there, as in serious cases parents and guardians seek the advice of the more experienced Assistant Surgeon, be the cost what it may. If then native doctors are to give up private practice, they should be compensated by an increase of salary, when hospital duties would be much better attended to.

PRATIKARA,  
November 1st, 1878.

10. The *Sulaba Samáchara* will not undertake to say how far Sir SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
Alexander Arbuthnot was successful in his November 2nd, 1878.  
endeavours, at the meeting of the Viceroy's

The Amended Press Act. Legislative Council on the amendment of Act IX, to meet the arguments of some of England's great men against the Press Act. What great calamity had come on the land that necessitated the passing of the Act in one day? Had Civilians not been over-anxious about the matter, why should securities have been at once demanded in this province the very moment the Act was passed? Was there a fear that the seditious spirit of the spleen-affected natives had increased? English abuse can be borne, but if natives point out faults, and that in their own language, it cannot be put up with. We feel grateful to Lord Lytton for his promise to supply us with news. We cannot refrain from laughing at the thought that it was found necessary to pass a law in the course of 24 hours for a country, whose Press, as it was said in Council, had been stopped from preaching sedition immediately as that law was passed. Better that we had not improved in knowledge or in our ideas, but had been content to believe and accept everything told us. Still we feel thankful that Government has some care for us.

11. The *Sádhárani* draws attention to the ravages of fever in the villages of Bengal. Those on the river-side are deserted. There is no room at the *Trivéni* burning ghât for the dead or dying. Let

SÁDHARANI,  
November 3rd, 1878.

The deplorable state of the villages in Bengal. Government give all the aid it can by the establishment of charitable dispensaries in the villages, as the case admits of no delay. Government did so much for Madras ; will nothing be done for Bengal? The country is going to ruin. Benevolent and well-to-do natives are called upon to assist their perishing fellow-subjects. Native papers are reproved for occupying themselves with *Cábul* affairs and not drawing attention to the deplorably sickly state of their own province. Let them shriek out all together on this matter, and awake Government from its stupor. Another point to which the writer would draw attention is the food-supply of the country. Here fish and milk constitute the really nourishing elements in the diet of the people ; the milk has deteriorated owing to the conduct of the milkmen, who sell the calves to the butchers, and, in order to induce their cows to give milk, have recourse to the cruel practice of *blowing*. Cross-breeds should also be obtained from the bulls of *Nepal* and up-country. The Bengalis are warned and entreated to bestir themselves and try to improve their condition by self-effort.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
November 6th, 1878.

12. The *Behár Bandhu* complains that, owing to the bad management of the transfer loan of 1878, the *bipáris* (or dealers in Government and other securities)

The 4½ per cent. transfer loan of 1878. have suffered much loss. The money market would not have been depressed as it is, if Government had made its arrangements with caution and prudence. Government allowed Rs. 3 discount for the new 4½ per cent. loan of 1878. The Russo-Turkish war made the *bipáris* reckless, and the market began to rise till it came to Rs. 3 premium. Almost immediately after came the *Cábul* affair; yet securities stood at a small premium. Just at that time the notice floating the 4½ per cent. transfer loan was published with the intimation that tenders for the transfer of 5½ per cent. papers would be received up to a certain date, and not after. It is here where Government blundered; for it ought to have fixed no date, but received tenders of 5½ per cent. securities whenever brought, as has since been notified in the *India Gazette* of the 26th October, though after the *bipáris* had become losers. Perhaps Government thought at the time that, securities being then at a premium, those who could not get a transfer after the fixed date would sell what they had at a discount. Again, when there were 2½ crores still wanted to close the transfer loan, Government ought to have known that there must be some confusion causing the delay in tendering the remaining securities representing the above amount, and preventing their arrival on the due date. There would then have been no necessity for notifying an extension of the period of the loan. The *bazar bipáris* became perplexed, and the price of Government papers fell; because, as the 4½ per cents. had sold previously during a steady market at 3 per cent. discount, people expected them to do so again. Who, but the Government, could know that the transfer loan was to remain open all along. Thus people were led to continue dealing in securities to the extent of *lakhs* and *lakhs* of rupees. At length, two or three days prior to the close of the period for tendering as first advertized, the *Englishman* announced that tenders of 5½ per cents. for the transfer loan would only be received at *par*; the market was again affected, and only 18 *lakhs* were received out of the remaining 2½ crores. Securities began to rise after this, when Government came with a second announcement agreeing to receive 5½ per cents. or cash in *par* for the 4½ per cent. transfer loan. People were astonished and failed to account for all this mismanagement on the part of Government. There is no knowing what the condition of the dealers in Government securities will be, since the English papers are filling their columns with war news with a view to get more subscribers, and the Government has kept the transfer loan open on the same terms as before. We all of us know, from the opinions formed by the English Government, that there will be no war after all, but that everything will be hushed up after a few menaces and threats. God only knows what the *bipáris* will come to, in the midst of all this confusion and trouble. Government should attend properly to the money and security market, for this too belongs to the sphere of its administration. It does not do to treat this department with neglect, for the honor and integrity of a nation are betokened by the state of its money market.

SOM PRakash,  
November 4th, 1878.

13. The *Som Prakash* says that in *Kámárgáchiá*, where 20 years ago

Sanitation in Bengal.

there were 1,600 inhabitants, there are now only 550. A few of the people used to take *ganjá* and opium before, but no liquor was used. Now there are eight dram-drinkers, 40 or 50 *ganjá* and opium smokers, and more than 200 tobacco smokers. There is one opium shop here, and a liquor shop in the adjoining village. It is difficult to find a person here free from disease of some kind

or other ; there are few births, and most of the children born are sickly. Diet has undergone no change, except that the consumption of flesh and vegetables has increased. Drainage has been obstructed by Government roads in towns and villages ; the earth has become quite saturated thereby, and waste lands have turned into *jangle*. The residences of the more respectable classes are drier and better ventilated. Those of the poorer are dry ; but they have no free circulation of air. The following list of the numbers and ages of the inhabitants in the village is given :—

			Males.	Females.
From	1 to 10 years	...	...	18 21
"	10 to 20 "	...	...	17 29
"	20 to 30 "	...	...	87 96
"	30 to 50 "	...	...	29 128
"	50 to 60 "	...	...	10 14
"	60 and upwards	...	...	2

The above will show that the climate here is bad, and the strength to produce children on the decrease. In one year, from 1284 to 1285 (B.S.), there were 42 deaths to two births. In the house of this correspondent, 28 persons of both sexes have died within the past 10 years. At the ceremony of feeding Brahmins, 80 or 175 could formerly be got together in this village, but now when it is proposed to feed 12 Brahmins, they have to be fetched from other villages. The report from *Séhákhálá* is similar.

14. The *Som Prakash* makes the following remarks on the recent action of the Madras and Bengal Governments  
Native religious endowments.

SOM PRAKASH,  
November 4th, 1878.

anent native religious endowments. We have generally observed that the wishes of the donors of religious endowments are rarely carried out. It behoves a civilized Government like ours to look after this, just as it has done in the matter of Wards' estates. Religious and charitable trusts should be managed on the same plan as *mafussal* municipalities. Committees should be formed, comprising honorary members of the same caste as the donor. These members should be honest, trustworthy, and religious men, who would endeavour to see the wish of the grantor, which generally takes the form of charity to the poor, carried out in all its integrity. Any waste or misappropriation of the funds should be visited with punishment on the offending member. Several attempts have been made by Lieutenant-Governors and Committees to remedy this state of affairs as to religious trusts, but with no success. Our present ruler has agitated the matter afresh and called for the opinions of various public bodies and individuals. It is not proper that the money given in trust for religious and charitable purposes should, contrary to the intention of the donors, be appropriated by Superintendents and Managers to the gratification of sensual appetites.

15. *Indranáth Banerji*, B.L., writing, under date the 29th ultimo, to  
The License Tax in Burdwan.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,  
November 6th, 1878.

the *Bardwán Sanjivani*, gives the following account of the manner in which the license tax is assessed in his village, *Gangátikuri*, in the *Catwá* division. He trusts that others will follow his plan of publishing license tax proceedings, so that the Collector may have full information on the subject. After detailing the names and professions of several individuals who have been assessed at Rs. 20, the writer would pass by these cases, as the individuals concerned have other means of livelihood ; but he would draw special attention to the cruelty inflicted on certain gold and silversmiths, who have had very little to manufacture, perhaps not more than 50 siccas' weight, and have been assessed at Rs. 2. Persons joined in trade have been taxed separately. It is a question whether such means are not likely to induce the famines they are supposed to prevent.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,  
November 6th, 1878.

SANGBAD  
PRABHAKARA,  
November 4th, 1878.

SANGBAD PURNA-  
CHUNDRODAYA,  
November 8th, 1878.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
November 8rd, 1878.

16. The Editor of the *Bardwan Sanjivani* objects to the Burdwan Exhibition of Agriculture and Arts as inopportune, the district being in an impoverished state, and the people busy in finding means of bare subsistence.

Objections against the exhibition of Agriculture and Arts in Burdwan.  
17. The *Sangbad Prabhakara* acknowledges gratefully the debt the English Government and the Bengalis owe their rulers, and feels that if the British should quit India (which God forbid), the Bengali race would go back to its old bondage under *Musalmán* rule. The English have rescued us and helped us to acquire a name and fame in the world. We admit that we have been preferred above all other races; still we wish something more to be done to ensure our permanent internal advancement.

18. The *Sangbad Purnachundrodaya* learns that it is intended not to employ any residents of a zillah in the Police Department of that same district. This plan, the writer says, though not a bad one, will not wholly answer the purpose. Ill-behaved police officers will contrive by some means or other to be left behind, whilst it would not do to pick out all the bad and lazy men and draft them into some other village, which would be the sufferer. The better plan would be to make a careful selection and send the useless and worthless men of the force to some other district, the chief officer of which should be enjoined to exercise a strict supervision over them.

#### FAMINE.

19. The *Hindu Hitaishini* complains of the people in Eastern Bengal being in such distressed circumstances as scarcely to be able to get two meals a day. If Famine prospects in Eastern Bengal. Government had a mind to do so, it could easily put an end to the prevailing distress. It will persist in its principles of free trade and not stop exports. If the people of England were to have their food-grains or articles exported, they would soon be in the same plight as the natives of this country are. It is wasting words on the wind to appeal to Government. Here if the price of grain rises, the prices of all edibles rise in proportion. There used to be a great cry here when rice sold at 10 or 12 seers, and Government came to our relief; now that it is selling at 8 to 10 seers, our cries are not heeded. Fortunately there are some benevolent natives who have come to the assistance of the people by selling rice to them at cheaper rates, such as 13 and 14 seers.

20. Lord Northbrook, says the *Dacca Prakash*, ruled that places where rice was selling at 10 seers to the rupee, should be considered as having been visited by famine. From 9 to 10 seers has been the ruling rate for a long time in almost the whole of Eastern Bengal; whilst in Behar and Mymensingh, rice has sold as high as 6 or 7 seers. Pulse and grain, too, have risen simultaneously with rice. We have been all along publishing accounts of the distress the people are suffering in these parts, some having to put up with one meal a day, and others with none at all. Government officials, however, think that no relief is necessary, and are inclined to believe that the people who can pay such high prices are well off. The distress into which these high rates of food have plunged the people, many of whom have parted with their all, whilst others are starving to death, does not seem to have arrested the attention of the State. Some benevolent natives have come forward with assistance by selling rice at low rates. These good men deserve the blessings, thanks, and praises of all. (The Editor here gives the names and residences of the gentlemen in detail.)

21. The *Bihar Bandhu* remarking that as no rain has fallen as yet though the month of *Ashwin* is past, and that Prospects of the paddy and rabbee crops in Behar. of *Kartik* about to close, says that the paddy crop is already injured, and there is great fear for the rabbee.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
November 6th, 1878.

22. The *Bharat Mihir* in its local columns states that, the inhabitants of *Mymensingh* suffered much on account of a scarcity of food during the month of *Ashwin* (September and October) last. Importations of rice ceased altogether for about a week, so that ordinary rice, which was selling at Rs. 7-8, could scarcely be procured. The *mafussal* was in similar distress. Our expectations from the Magistrate were not realized. The rich and wealthy men of the town seemed to be asleep over the matter, whilst the poor were suffering the severest distress, sometimes subsisting on the scantiest of meals, and at other times starving altogether. Mr. Pawsey, the Magistrate, refused the assistance proffered by *Babu Surjakanta, Rai Bahadur*, of *Muktágachá*, and the *Babu* did not stir any further in the matter. There was a large importation of rice in the beginning of the present month of *Kártik*, so that coarse rice is now selling at Rs. 4-8, and fine at Rs. 5-8 per maund.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
October 31st, 1878.

### LOCAL.

23. The *Jámálpore* correspondent of the *Dacca Prákasha*, makes a passing allusion to the prevalence of fever in Accounts from Jamalpore. that town, and then goes on to eulogize the

DACCA PRAKASH,  
November 3rd, 1878.

proceedings of the native Co-operative Society, whose capital has now reached Rs. 8,000, and by whose efforts people and places in this part of the country have been much benefited. The European gentlemen sympathize with the movement, and some of them have gone so far as to ask to become shareholders; but the native members vetoed the proposal, because it was a Hindu society, and the admission of Europeans would eventually throw matters into disorder. The correspondent would draw the attention of the postal authorities to the delay and inconvenience caused to the public by the Post Office at *Jámálpore* making a distinction in the delivery of paid and bearing letters. The mails arrive here at  $8\frac{3}{4}$  P.M., 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 9 A.M.; paid letters are sent out for delivery at 6 A.M., and paid and bearing together at 9 A.M.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
November 6th, 1878.

24. The *Behár Bandhu* opines that scarcity of food must account for the indifferent character of the present year's Sonepore Fair. Very few horses have up to

this arrived for sale, and these are not of a superior kind. Perhaps we shall see no *Cábul* horses, fruits, or cloths this year.

SAMACHARA  
CHANDRIKA,  
November 4th, 1878.

25. The *Samáchara Chandriká* draws the attention of the proper authorities to the great inconvenience which passengers suffer for want of drinking water at the several railway stations, especially on the Eastern Bengal and Multah line. The station masters are entreated to attend to the matter, as they are paid servants employed for the special purpose. But the man whose duty it is to supply the water, takes to selling refreshments; this pursuit pays him well, so that he has not time to attend to his legitimate duty.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,  
November 6th, 1878.

26. The *Cátwa* correspondent of the *Bardwán Sanjivani* says that, two or four persons in each village of this subdivision are lying prostrate with fever and many people are dying for want of proper medical aid.

Sickness in Catwa.

BARDWAJ SANJIVANI,  
November 6th, 1878.

27. The Rániganj correspondent of this paper regrets to state that since the departure of Mr. Green, robberies and burglaries have been taking place, and the police have failed to trace the offenders. Dr. Mahendra's house was the other day broken into and several jewels taken away. Better if the police were at once got rid of.

SOM PRAKASH,  
November 4th, 1878.

28. An anonymous correspondent, writing to the *Som Prakásha*, under Complaint against the Municipality date the 23rd ultimo, from *Gauríbhá*, a village of Gauribha. inhabited mostly by well-educated and respectable folks, and situated a mile to the north of *Naiháttí*, complains that the place has well nigh been ruined owing to the fever there prevailing. The municipality is blamed for not clearing out the tanks, which have become dry during the drought of the past few seasons, and are now overgrown with a *jangle* which is rotting and poisoning the atmosphere.

SAHACHARA,  
November 4th, 1878.

29. The *Sáhibganj* correspondent of the *Sahachara* notices the A European wandering about and wanderings of a European in the *mafussal*, obtaining money under false pretences. who induces *Rájás* and *zamindárs* to give him money to start a paper in which to ventilate their grievances. The *Maháráni Swarnamayi*, it is said, has already given him Rs. 200, and some *Rájás* have promised him support. He has, moreover, taken sums of Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 from different people with the promise of providing them with situations, but he has as yet failed to do so. He puts them off from time to time, after squandering the money deposited with him. Our Government should have an eye on this man, who, it is said, is now on his way to the North-West, and is at present at Benares.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 9th November 1878.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Offg. Bengali Translator.